

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 AGRE-00 DOE-11
SOE-02 /091 W
-----037654 092230Z /73

R 091802Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5391
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY SUVA

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USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EEC, XA
SUBJECT: MARCH 10-11 ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO DISCUSS
MANDATE FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON LOME II

REF: 77 BRUSSELS 19426 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETS MARCH 10-11
IN BRUSSELS PREPARATORY TO ANNUAL EC-ACP MINISTERIAL
MEETING MARCH 13-14. IN PRINCIPLE, ACP COUNCIL WILL
DEVOTE ITS ATTENTION TO HOUSEKEEPING ISSUES CONCERNING
PRESENT LOME CONVENTION, BUT, IN PRACTICE, MAIN FOCUS IS
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LIKELY TO BE ON DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON ACP MANDATE FOR
LOME II NEGOTIATIONS REVIEWED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, REPRESENTING 53 STATES
ASSOCIATED WITH EC UNDER LOME CONVENTION, WILL HOLD ITS
FIFTEENTH SESSION, MARCH 10-11, IN BRUSSELS. COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON OF JAMAICA, WILL

DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS, AND MINISTERS WILL TAKE UP FOLLOWING ISSUES: (A) DRAFT AGENDA FOR ANNUAL EC-ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, BRUSSELS, MARCH 13-14; (B) REPORT OF ACP COMMITTEE OF AMBASSADORS ON ITS RECENT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING PROMOTION OF INTRA-ACP COOPERATION; (C) REVIEW OF OPERATION OF LOME COMMODITY PROTOCOLS, I.E., SUGAR, RUM, BANANAS, ETC.; AND (D) DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON THE RENEGOTIATION OF LOME CONVENTION (DUE TO EXPIRE IN MARCH 1980). ACP SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS TELL US THAT LATTER ITEM IS EXPECTED TO PREOCCUPY MINISTERS, SINCE MARCH 10-11 COUNCIL REPRESENTS ONE OF FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ORDERLY CONSIDERATION OF NEGOTIATING MANDATE BY ACP'S AS A BODY BEFORE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMMUNITY OPEN IN SEPTEMBER 1978.

3. ACP SECRETARIAT'S "DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON THE RENEGOTIATION", DRAWN UP AT REQUEST OF 14TH SESSION OF ACP COUNCIL IN LUSAKA (REFTEL), PROPOSES THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES BE INTRODUCED AS REGARDS SOME PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING LOME CONVENTION, BUT DOES NOT SUGGEST FUNDAMENTAL MODIFICATION OF PRESENT STRUCTURE OR CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENT. AMONG REVISIONS PROPOSED IN EXISTING CHAPTERS OF CONVENTION ARE:

-- STRENGTHENING OF STABEX OPERATIONS;

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-- RE-EXAMINATION OF EC SAFEGUARD PROCEDURES;

-- IMPROVED TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS IN FAVOR OF ACP PRODUCTS;

-- GUARANTEED MARKETS IN EC-9 FOR BASIC COMMODITIES PRODUCED WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AID; AND

-- OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IN LOME PROTOCOLS COVERING SUGAR, RUM AND BANANAS.

4. IN LAYING OUT BACKGROUND TO FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS, SECRETARIAT IS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF DEFECTS IN THE PRESENT CONVENTION, WHICH IT BELIEVES RESULT FROM "INADEQUATE ADJUSTMENT POLICIES AND LOOPHOLES IN THE STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION." REPORT HIGHLIGHTS, IN THIS REGARD, ADVERSE WORLD ECONOMIC TRENDS (INCLUDING DETERIORATING TERMS OF TRADE FOR LDC'S, PROTECTIONIST TENDENCIES IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, ETC.) THAT HAVE HAD A PARTICULARLY SEVERE IMPACT ON ACP'S, MOST OF WHICH DEPEND ON (NON-OIL) RAW MATERIALS EXPORTS RECEIPTS. MEANWHILE, MEMORANDUM CONTINUES, EC POLICIES

HAVE REMAINED "IMMOBILE" IN FACE OF REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, AND COMBINATION OF INFLATION AND RECESSION REVEAL KEY IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY'S ACCESS TO RAW MATERIALS IN MAINTAINING ECONOMIC STABILITY. GIVEN THIS BACKGROUND, AND RECOGNIZING "GEO-STRATEGIC" IMPORTANCE OF THE ACP STATES IN ASSURING STABLE GROWTH IN EC-9, LOME II NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE FOUNDED ON PRINCIPLE OF "INTERDEPENDENCE, COMPLEMENTARITY AND MUTUAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF PARTIES CONCERNED".

5. BASED ON ABOVE PREMISES, RENEGOTIATION OF LOME CONVENTION, IN ACP SECRETARIAT'S VIEW, MUST RECOGNIZE FOLLOWING GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

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-- PRESENT EC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION EFFORTS ARE INSUFFICIENT;

-- EROSION OF REGIONAL PREFERENTIAL TRADE BENEFITS (BY GSP) MUST BE CORRECTED; AND

-- CLOSER HARMONIZATION OF EC MEMBER STATE AID POLICIES
IS IMPERATIVE.

IN ADDITION, LOME II SHOULD PROGRESS INTO CERTAIN "NEW
DOMAINS" OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, AMONG WHICH ARE:

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(A) PROTECTION OF ACP WORKERS: SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERN-
ING THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES IN EC-9;

(B) ENERGY: SPECIAL FUND FOR RESEARCH AND EVALUATION OF
NEW ENERGY SOURCES;

(C) SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION: CREATION OF JOINT SCIENTIFIC
BODIES TO ENABLE ACP STATES TO BENEFIT FROM EUROPEAN
TECHNOLOGY;

(D) TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS: MEASURES FOR LAND-
LOCKED LDC'S;

(E) AGRICULTURE: CREATION OF AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
FUND;

(F) FOOD AID: EC PROGRAMS SHOULD BE INSTITUTIONALIZED
IN LOME CONTEXT.

6. MEMORANDUM CONCLUDES BY REFERRING TO TACTICS FOR
FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMMUNITY; PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON NEED FOR "COHESION AND SOLIDARITY"
AMONG ACP GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO ADVANCE SUCCESSFULLY
THEIR CLAIMS AGAINST EC-9. IN THIS REGARD, MEMORANDUM
STATES, FLAGGING G-77 UNITY SINCE 1975 CAN HINDER ACP
EFFORTS, AND MUST BE OFFSET BY CONCERTED ACTION.

7. COMMENT: WHILE DRAFT MEMORANDUM--WHICH IS CONSIDERED
CONFIDENTIAL BY ACP SECRETARIAT, BUT WHICH HAS BEEN CIR-
CULATED FAIRLY WIDELY HERE--IS INTERESTING FOR ITS
PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON DIRECTIONS ACP GROUP WOULD LIKE
TO SEE REVISED LOME CONVENTION TAKE, MISSION WOULD LIKE
TO OFFER THESE CAVEATS: (A) IDEAS CONTAINED IN MEMORANDUM
DO NOT AS YET HAVE OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT OF ACP GOVERN-
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MENTS; AND (B) A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF DOCUMENT APPEARS TO
BE TO DRIVE HOME A NUMBER OF POINTS ON ECONOMIC AND

POLITICAL BACKDROP TO FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS TO HELP
JUSTIFY SUGGESTED REVISIONS IN PRESENT CONVENTION.
END COMMENT. HINTON

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